Spolia Mentawiensia

Tenebrionidæ

by K. G. Blair

The present paper is based upon one of the collections made in the Mentawi Islands off the west coast of Sumatra by Messrs. C. Boden Kloss, N. Smedley and H. H. Karny.[1] It is only with considerable diffidence that I have undertaken the task, since this family of beetles, particularly from this part of the world, has long formed the special study of my honoured colleague, Herr Hans Gebien of Hamburg, whose admirable work "Die-Tenebrioniden des Indo-Malayischen Gebietes" is now in course of publication. It is unfortunately but too probable that some at least of the species here described as new may be identical with species of which descriptions as yet unpublished may have been prepared by this much more competent author. It is possible also that some of the forms now treated as new may prove eventually to have been

1. *Vide* Bull. Raffles Mus., No. 1, Sept. 1928, pp. 2—4.

already named by M. Pic. Though I believe that I have recognised some of this author's species among the material now before me, there may be others that I have failed to identify from his very brief and widely scattered descriptions.

1. Bradymerus clathratus, Schauf. 1 ex. Siberut.

Type locality Macassar; represented in the British Museum by examples from Penang, Java, Borneo, the Philippines and the Andaman Islands.

2. Ceropria superba, Wied. 1 ex. Siberut.

Fairly widely distributed: from Java and Borneo to S. China and Assam.

3. Leiochrinus testaceus, Westw. (?) 2 ex. Siberut.

Both examples are very defective.

4. Leiochrodes suturalis, Westw. 3 ex. Sipora. 2 ex. Siberut.

Described from Amboina, its range appears to extend from New Guinea to Perak and Selangor in the Malay Peninsula.

5. Leiochrodes rufofulvus, Westw. 1 ex. Sipora. 1 ex. Siberut.

Described from Celebes, the British Museum possesses examples from Java, Sumatra, Perak, Burma and Assam.

6. Leiochrota glabrata, Walk. 2 ex. Sipora.

With type from Ceylon, the species occurs also in Sikkim, thence through the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and Borneo.

7. Uloma picicornis, Fairm. 1 ex. Siberut.

Occurs throughout Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Philippine Is., and northwards to Laos.

8. Uloma orientalis, Cast. 1 ex. Siberut. 2 ex. Sipora.

Another widely distributed Oriental species.

9. Uloma triemarginata, sp. n.

Elongate, somewhat depressed, nitid, castaneous; head in the ♂ very finely and sparsely punctate, and broadly but not deeply excavate between the eyes, the clypeus truncate in front, with the anterior edge thickened and strongly reflexed, its angles obtuse, but definite. Antennæ stout, 3rd joint about as long as wide, 4th to 8th increasingly wider, 8th to 10th about three times as wide as long. Mentum cordiform, flat, finely and sparsely punctate. Thorax wider than long, widest near front margin, disc finely and sparsely punctate; base not bordered; apex in ♂ triemarginate, the declivity short but steep, the middle emargination about twice as wide as the two lateral, with a pair of small tubercles in the middle

at the crest of the declivity. Elytra parallel-sided for about two-thirds of their length, as wide as the base of the thorax, the striæ sharply cut, rather finely and not closely punctate, the intervals feebly convex, more strongly so towards the sides; the lateral carina is invisible from above except just behind the shoulder and again at the apex. Anterior tibiæ slightly arcuate, not emarginate on inner side at base, outer side sharply dentate.

In the ♀ the head is more rounded in front, widely depressed along the clypeal suture, with the frons more strongly punctate; the thorax lacks the excavations above the anterior margin. Length 9 mm. 4 ♂♂, 12 ♀♀ from Sipora Id. (C.B.K., N.S. and H.H.K.). 1 ♂ Siberut Id. (H.H.K.).

In form more closely resembles *U. picicornis*, Fairm., than any other species known to me, but at once distinguished by the peculiar thoracic structure of the male, and the much stouter antennæ. The female is separable from that of *U. picicornis* by its much more depressed form, the broad front of the thorax, and the flatter elytral intervals. As is usual in this genus, in a small male the sexual characters of the head and thorax will be much less strongly developed than in a large one.

10. Encyalesthus æruginosus, F. Siberut. 1 ex. (H.H.K.).

With type locality Java, it occurs also in Borneo and Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula, Siam and Tonkin.

11. Nacrobioides sulcaticollis, Fairm. Siberut. 1 ex. (C.B.K. and N.S.).

The single example differs a little from typical Bornean specimens in the thorax and elytra being similarly coloured, coppery-æneous.

12. Artactes apicalis, sp. n.

Shortly ovate, very convex, nitid, head and thorax piceous with purple reflections, elytra blackish æneous on dorsum, passing gradually through æneous, purple, violet, blue to greenish on shoulder and along outer apical margin. Elytral epipleuræ, underside and legs brownish.

Head almost impunctate, non-carinate, eyes separated by a distance about twice as great as the width of one of them. Thorax finely, rather obsoletely punctate, the sides not very strongly rounded, anterior angles blunt, anterior border interrupted in middle; posterior angles really obtuse, rounded but depressed and covered by base of elytra, the apparent posterior angles being acutely rectangular. Elytra a little longer than together wide, seriate punctate, the punctures moderately large and distant, becoming finer and eventually obsolete behind and on the shoulder; intervals feebly convex, practically impunctate; the lateral margin sharply defined by a deep sulcus which fails to reach the apex, of

almost even width throughout, scarcely wider at the shoulder, epipleur almost flat, horizontal, feebly hollowed beneath shoulder. Length: 7 mm.

Mentawi Ids., 1 ex., No. 187 (H.H.K.).

Rather less hemispherical than most of its congeners, and differing markedly in the horizontal epipleuræ of the elytra. Probably related to *A. marginicollis*, Fairm., and *A. tristis*, Gebien.

13. Hemicera splendens, Wied. 50 ex. from Sipora and Siberut.

Though most of the series exhibit fairly typical iridescent bands of colour, a few show some interesting variations from this normal; *e.g.*, the median band of green or blue running from behind the shoulder along the 5th interval normally is about limited by this interval, but exceptionally may expand to cover the intervals from the 3rd to the 7th, pushing, as it were, the succeeding colours outwards; on the other hand, it may fail to develop, leaving the median portion of the disc entirely coppery. Considerable variation in size is also exhibited (5 mm. to 9 mm. in length).

14. Hemicera fulgurans, sp. n.

Similar to *H. splendens*, Wied., but smaller and differently coloured. Head and thorax dark, almost black, with uniform æneous reflections, finely and sparsely punctured as in *H. splendens*, the interspaces not alutaceous. Elytra brilliant, the sutural interval blue, the next brassy, the greater part of the disc coppery purple, changing externally through æneous and green to a dark blackish green along the side margin; striæ rather finely but irregularly punctured; intervals nearly flat, finely and sparsely punctate, with the interspaces not alutaceous; first and second striæ a little deeper towards apex. Underside reddish piceous, with slight æneous reflections on metasternum, on the last three segments of the abdomen and on the femora; the first three abdominal segments rather finely and closely strigose, the last two almost impunctate. Length 4½ mm.

Siberut, 1 ex., No. 137 (H.H.K.).

15. Hemicera sexmaculata, Gebien. var. **octomaculata** nov.

Differs from the typical form in the sub-apical yellow spot on the elytra being divided into two. 3 ex Sipora, 1 ex. Siberut.

These examples from the Mentawi Islands have the elytra brownish black in colour, though others in the British Museum from Burneo exhibit more or less strong purple reflections. Occasionally the two sub-apical spots are confluent, thus merging into typical *H. sexmaculata*. This purplish form has also been received from Medan, east coast of Sumatra, 9-1-1921 (J. B. Corporaal) (Type of the variety).

16. Platycrepis elongatus, Pic., Mélanges exot. ent. fasc. 35, 1922, p. 23.

Eleutheris quadricollis (Bates, MS. in B. M. Coll.).

Sipora and Siberut, 5 ex.

Pic's brief description appears to fit this insect, except that the elytra though sometimes purple are in certain lights bright blue, the head and thorax dark blue black.

It differs from *P. latitarsis*, Fairm., apart from its smaller size, in the much less strongly dilated tarsi in the ♂, in which sex also the intermediate tibiæ are bent in the middle, the inner side beyond the bend being densely pubescent.

Bates's specimens are from Java, Singapore and S. Borneo.

17. Platycrepis hemiceroides sp. n.

Elongate ovate, metallic bluish green, the sutural interval, the 5th and part of 6th interval and the lateral margin of the same colour, the rest of the elytra coppery.

Head finely and sparsely punctate with a transverse sulcus between the eyes. Thorax impunctate, transversely depressed across the base, with an oblique fovea or sulcus on each side of the middle line, limiting this depression, and a small basal fovea on each side opposite the 4th interval. Elytra strongly convex, the striæ deeply cut, impunctate, intervals somewhat convex, obsoletely punctulate. Intermediate tibiæ of ♂ bent in the middle, densely pubescent on inner side beyond the bend. Tarsi not very strongly dilated. Length 8—10 mm.

Siberut, 1 ex. (C.B.K. and N.S.); Mentawi Ids., 1 ex., No. 188 (H.H.K.).

In colouration somewhat resembles *Hemicera splendens*, but the transition between the bands of colour, though somewhat iridescent, is much less gradual than in that species.

18. Platycrepis lateritius sp. n.

Ovate, very convex, æneopiceous, the elytra with suture bluish, the greater part of the disc æneous, merging gradually laterally through purple and violet to blue along the sides, green and again æneous appearing on the shoulder, and in addition purple towards the apex. Elytral striæ feebly impressed but distinctly punctate; intervals feebly convex and obscurely punctulate. Tarsi very feebly expanded. Length 5—6 mm. Sipora 1 ex., No. 168 (H.H.K.); Malay Peninsula, Gap (Fraser's Hill, Selangor-Pahang boundary), 2 ex. (A. M. Lea and wife in Brit. Mus. Coll.).

Remarkable on account of its small size and almost seriate punctate instead of sharply striate elytra.

19. Simalura sulcimargo sp. n.

Small, metallic, with the colouring almost of *Hemicera splendens*, Wied. Head short, strongly transverse, the clypeus not emarginate, and concealing the base of the labrum; puncturation rather strong, but not very close; antennæ stout, not reaching base of thorax, the last six joints expanded on inner side. Thorax strongly transverse, about twice as wide as in the middle long, anterior margin feebly rounded, base sub-angularly prominent in the middle and finely marginate; sides sinuate, the anterior angles rounded, the posterior sharp and slightly prominent; immediately within the lateral and anterior margins is a wide, deep and sharply excised groove, briefly interrupted in the middle of the anterior margin; disc not strongly convex, slightly depressed across the base, moderately strongly but not closely punctate. Elytra very convex, in strong contrast with the nearly horizontal thorax, colours in bands much as in H. splendens, except that the purple patch forming the centre for a lateral concentric series instead of being on the 9th interval as in *H. splendens*, occupies the 7th and 8th intervals; striæ rather deep, not very closely punctured; intervals slightly convex, finely and sparsely punctured, the interspaces not alutaceous. Legs black, tarsi villose beneath, the joints not expanded, last joint about as long as the rest together. Length 5 mm. Siberut, 1 ex. (C.B.K. and N.S.).

Resembles a small *Hemicera*, but differs from that genus in the structure of the head

20. Eucyrtus pretiosus Lac. Siberut (C.B.K. and N.S.).

A single very small example only 11 mm. in length.

A species of wide distribution occurring from Borneo to Tonkin.

21. Gauromaia variicolor Pic., Mélanges exot.-ent. fasc. 35, 1922, p. 24.

Pulau Tello, Batu Islands, XI, 1924 (H.H.K.).

The single specimen agrees well with examples in the British Museum that I take to be this species from Java and Singapore.

22. (?) **Gauromaia rufiventris,** Gebien, Notes Leyden Mus. XXXVI, 1914, p. 67.

A variable series from Sipora and Siberut appears to agree fairly well with the description, except that the elytra, in some examples purplish with green suture and sides, in others are almost concolorous with the thorax, at most a little more æneous in the shoulders and at apex. In form and sculpture they are extremely similar to the last species, in fact both are probably but colour forms of one.

23. Pseudonautes (Thydemus) helopinus, Fairm. Sipora and Siberut Ids.

The present series differs from examples in the British Museum from Singapore in their rather larger size, and more brilliant play of colours, but does not appear to be specifically distinct. The description of *P. sinuatipes*, Pic, would also appear to fit them, but unfortunately in the only example (possibly ♀) with intermediate or posterior tibiæ present these structures are straight.

24. Pseudonautes angustivittatus, sp. n.

Small, polychrome; head bluish green, with a transverse purplish line behind the eyes. Thorax bluish green towards the sides, the middle area dark æneous, separated from the lateral areas by narrow bands of blue and violet. Elytra longitudinally banded with various colours, the bands very largely limited by the striæ in the following sequence:—sutural interval blue, 2nd greenish æneous, 4th coppery, 5th blue, 6th again coppery, 7th æneous, 8th and 9th greenish. Striæ deep, moderately closely punctured, intervals strongly convex, almost impunctate. Underside dark piceous; sides of abdominal segments more or less metallic; femora rather strongly metallic. Length 7 mm.

Siberut, 1 ex. (C.B.K. and N.S.).

Allied to *Ps. sulcipennis*, Geb., but with sides of thorax rather arcuately narrowed in front, not sinuate, the anterior angles less prominent, and the colouration very different.

25. Phædis siporana, sp. n.

Oblong, head and thorax black, with strong green and gold metallic tints, the latter with a sub-median pair of narrow irideous bands, not quite straight and diverging slightly from anterior margin to base. Elytra more brightly coppery æneous, shading through coppery and purple to blue at the humerus, and, further, through green to æneous at the apex; the sutural interval is also blue along its median third, while the third, fifth and seventh intervals have each a smaller patch of green or blue about the middle of their length. Underside, legs and antennæ black. Length 8 mm.

Sipora, 1 ex. (C.B.K. and N.S.).

Resembles *P. (Pseudeumolpus) rotundicollis*, Fairm., but the head and thorax are less strongly metallic, the colours appearing to be, as it were, washed on a black ground, the elytra are also differently sculptured, being striate-punctate, the punctures rather uneven in size, not very closely placed, and not connected by any definite incised line; the intervals are slightly convex, and finely rather indistinctly punctulate.

26. Obriomaia subcostata, Fairm. **(Eucyrtus)**. Siberut, 1 ex. (H.H.K.).

A small individual only 5 mm. in length.

27. Cnemandrosus chalceus, Gebien.

Siberut, 1 ex. (H.H.K.).

On comparison of the type of the Indian *Plamius tenuistriatus*, Fairm., with a cotype of *Cnemandrosus phaseoli*, Geb., it appears to me very doubtful whether these genera are distinct. In *Plamius*, the 6th joint of the antennæ is not wider than the 5th, whereas in *Cnemandrosus* it is triangular forming the first joint of the club.

28. Amarygmus æneus, Wied. Sipora and Siberut Ids.

29. Amarygmus micans, F. Siberut, 1 ex. (H.H.K.).

30. Amarygmus semiæneus, sp. n.

Ovate, convex, reddish piceous with the elytra fusco-æneous. Head sub-opaque, finely and remotely punctured; eyes separated by a distance about equal to the width of one of them; antennæ moderately stout, 3rd joint almost as long as 4th and 5th together, 6th to 11th wider, sub-equal, about half as long again as wide. Thorax transverse, its apical width little more than half the basal width, the sides and apex finely margined; anterior angles rather less than right angles, posterior angles obtuse; disc smooth, very finely, sparsely, almost obsoletely punctured. Elytra widest a little before middle, punctate-striate, the striæ sharply cut, their punctures elongate, becoming much finer posteriorly; intervals feebly convex near suture and towards apex, but strongly convex laterally, especially about the middle. Underside and legs smooth, scarcely punctate, middle tibiæ in male slightly bent in middle, clothed on inner side beyond the bend with long pubescence. Long 6 mm.; lat. 4·5 mm.

Sipora and Siberut (C.B.K., N.S. and H.H.K.).

Resembles a small broad *A. æneus*, Wied., but very distinct in the wide distance separating the eyes, in the shape of the thorax, and in the non-metallic colour of the body.

31. Amarygmus klossi, sp. n.

Ovate, strongly convex, head black, æneous between the eyes; thorax dark purplish blue changing towards the sides through green to æneous; elytra polychrome, greenish blue along the suture, ranging through æneous and coppery to purple on the 5th and 6th intervals, then back to green along lateral margin; underside, legs and antennæ black.

Head rather finely, not closely punctate, distance between the eyes about equal to the length of the third antennal joint, ocular furrows wanting; antennæ slender, about half as long as body. Thorax widest at base, the sides evenly arcuate, apical width about half that of base. Elytra widest before the middle, the striæ deep, and moderately strongly punctured; intervals flat, rather strongly but not closely punctured. Length 9 mm.

Sipora, Oct. 1924, 1 ex. (C.B.K. and N.S.).

In shape resembles the common *A. æneus*, Wied., but quite differently coloured, and with differently formed elytral striæ and intervals. From the description it would appear to resemble *A. padangus*, Gebien, but this species is smaller and has the elytral intervals strongly convex behind, the femora probably more strongly clavate, and the first joint of the posterior tarsi longer than the rest together. In *A. klossi* this joint is scarcely longer than the last.

32. Cyriogeton tenuistriatum, sp. n.

Ovate, very convex, nitid, fusco-æneous with the front of the head, antennæ, apex of femora and tarsi black, the rest of the femora reddish, with the tibiæ darker.

Head finely and sparsely punctulate, eyes moderately approximate, separated by a space rather less than the length of the 4th antennal joint, with a fine but sharply cut sulcus round their inner edge; space between the eyes behind their nearest approximation impressed; clypeal suture rather deeply incised. Antennæ slender, 7th joint reaching base of thorax. Thorax very convex, especially towards sides, strongly narrowed from middle to apex, sides rounded, evenly bordered, but the margin somewhat concealed from above by the convexity of the dorsum; anterior angles obtuse, except for a small projection formed by the border. Elytra suddenly contracted at base, widest about the middle, finely seriate-punctate, scarcely striate, the punctures evanescent near base and apex, intervals flat, impunctate; lateral carina completely visible from above. Underside of prothorax and mesosternum reddish piceous; prosternum obtusely carinate before coxæ, but concave between them, impunctate, depressed behind coxæ with apical prominence; mesosternum medially excavate in front with vertical walls for reception of prosternal process; metasternum strongly æneous; abdomen reddish piceous with fainter æneous reflections, the segments longitudinally rugulose but scarcely punctate, anal segment smooth with marginal sulcus. Legs smooth, anterior femora toothed beyond middle beneath, tibiæ rounded externally, finely and sparsely punctulate, with no obvious sexual modifications in the specimens before me. Long. 16 x lat. 8 mm.

Sipora, 1 ex. (C.B.K. and N.S.); Borneo, Sarawak, 2 ex. (A. R. Wallace).

Allied to *C. insignis*, Pasc., but smaller and more convex, the punctures of the elytral series less closely and more irregularly spaced. Probably also closely allied to *C. borneensis*, Pic, which is unknown to me.

The individual from the Mentawi Islands differs from the Bornean examples, which are taken as typical, in the darker, almost black colour of the underside and legs.

33. Strongylium gratum, Mäkl. Siberut.

34. Strongylium pallidonotatum, Pic, Mélanges exot.-ent. fasc. 23, 1917, p. 19.

I have little doubt about the identity of this insect, examples from Java agreeing tolerably well with the somewhat inadequate description. The coloration varies considerably, the head and thorax being sometimes entirely testaceous, or the latter with the lateral borders and a median stripe darker, the elytra testaceous, with a basal triangular patch of paler yellow, and behind this two lateral patches fuscous with greenish reflections. The single example from Siberut, (H.H.K.) differs in having the elytra except for two pale basal patches, black with scarcely a trace of green. The elytra sculpture is very peculiar; on a triangular area bounded by the humeral callosity, the middle point of the side margin, and the highest point on the suture (*i.e.* the dark area in the pale form noted above) the punctures of the striæ are very large, deep, and somewhat lenticular, the intervals, the first two excepted, rising gradually from the inner limiting stria and falling away abruptly to the outer, almost as in *Obriomaia sub-costata*, Fairm. (*supra*); the large foveiform punctures encroach very slightly on to the steep side of the interval, but extend nearly half way across the gently sloping side; apart from this area the punctures are smaller and more normal, the striæ sharply impressed to the apex. The apex of the elytra is sharply mucronate.

This species is closely allied to *S. gravidum*, Mäkl., which has similar sculpture, but in the latter the thorax is narrower and more convex.

35. Strongylium subdepressum, Gebien (? M.S.) Siberut, 1 ex. (C.B.K. and N.S.).

Though specimens from Sandakan, Borneo, were received from the late Prof. C. F. Baker with this name, I cannot find that a description has ever been published. The Mentawi example differs from the Bornean specimens in being bright blue above instead of testaceo-æneous, with the elytral interstices uniformly narrow; in the Sandakan example the third and fifth interstices are more raised and costiform. Further examples from Borneo and Penang show intermediate stages both in colour and in the development of the costæ.

36. Strongylium promiscuum, Geb. Supplem. Ent. 15, 1927, p. 56. Sipora and Siberut.

The description agrees very closely with the specimens before me, except that the triangular expansion of the anterior thoracic border occupies only 1/10 to 1/8 instead of 1/5 of its median length. As, however, the type is unique this might be an exceptional occurrence.